

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2548
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

U.S. Magistrate Judge Sidney I. Schenkier to Retire on April 30, 2020

Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer announced today that Magistrate Judge Sidney I. Schenkier will retire from the bench effective April 30, 2020.

“Judge Schenkier served our court with excellence, compassion, and integrity for twenty-two years, including four years as presiding magistrate judge. On behalf of the court, I want to thank Judge Schenkier for his lasting contributions to this court and the community,” said Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

Judge Schenkier joined the court’s magistrate bench on October 30, 1998 and served as its presiding magistrate judge from 2008 until 2012.

As a lawyer and judge, Judge Schenkier tried and later heard many high-profile cases. Perhaps most notable is the *Shakman* case, a series of consent decrees barring political patronage practices in city and county employment. Judge Schenkier was initially assigned the case for discovery matters. In 2006, he joined U.S. District Judge Wayne Anderson, who was then supervising the matter, to help mediate the case. In 2010, when Judge Anderson retired, Judge Schenkier became his successor in managing the case.

Judge Schenkier also served on the court’s James B. Moran Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Re-Entry program since its inception in 2010. The Second C.H.A.N.C.E. program is designed to help former federal inmates reintegrate into the community and live law-abiding lives after they are released from prison through intensive supervision and frequent meetings with a team of judges, probation officers, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Federal Defenders, treatment providers and U.S. Marshals.

Judge Schenkier also played an active role in the Federal Magistrate Judges Association (FMJA), serving as its Seventh Circuit Director, secretary, treasurer, vice president, and president. The FMJA is committed to advancing the public's understanding of the role of magistrate judges in the federal court system and improving the utilization of magistrate judges in that system.

Beginning in October 2015, Judge Schenkier also served on the Committee of the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

Judge Schenkier earned his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law. After graduating from law school, Judge Schenkier served as the first law clerk to U.S. District Judge Marvin E. Aspen, Northern District of Illinois. He went on to work as a Bigelow Teaching Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School for one year before joining the firm of Jenner & Block. He became a partner at Jenner & Block in 1986, where he litigated both civil and criminal cases until joining the bench. Judge Schenkier has also taught trial advocacy at Northwestern University School of Law as an adjunct Professor since 1986.

Magistrate judges perform a variety of duties for the court, including conducting preliminary proceedings in federal criminal cases and the trial and disposition of federal misdemeanor cases upon consent of the litigants. They conduct various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings upon referral from a district judge of the court and the trial and disposition of federal civil cases upon consent of the litigants.

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